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## **EOC Spot Report: UPDATE #1, Region 6, Fire at International Terminal Corporation, Deer Park, TX (NRC# 1240304 and 1240312)**

**US Environmental Protection Agency  
Report as of March 17, 2019 15:30 EDT**

**Overview:** On March 17, the Region 6 phone duty officer was notified by the NRC (1240304) about the fire at International Terminal Corporation (ITC) in Deer Park, Houston TX. The fire reportedly started around 10:30 am. According to the NRC report one of the tanks containing naphtha has caught on fire, the total capacity of the tank is 80,000 barrels. ITC DEER PARK has issued an evacuation order of 5 miles radius and has engaged in firefighting shore side. City of Deer Park, TX has also issued a shelter in place order. There have been no injuries reported. Fire operations are still ongoing, with maintaining of the foam blanket in the secondary containment to prevent reignition of hot spots. Foam is being added approximately 3 times every 4 hours at a rate of 180,000 gallons of foam per foaming operation. The facility stated that there is approximately 2 feet of free board within the secondary containment. The secondary containment has a capacity of 175,000 barrels (7.38 million gallons). The facility will open outfall 003 per foaming operation to manage water in the secondary containment to maintain current levels. Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and EPA requested water sampling be done each time outfall is opened. This will be added to the Water Sampling plan.

**State, Local, and other Federal Agency Action:** Coast Guard Station Houston and TCEQ are on scene. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) plume modeling indicated that it would not affect the Houston Ship Channel. An Incident Command Post has been stood up. ITC's contractor will mobilize additional resources (skimmers, vac trucks, and frac tanks) to conduct cleanup operations. On March 21, 2019, elevated benzene levels forced the movement of the Incident Command from the tank farm area to Highway 225. TCEQ teams, Center for Toxicology and Environmental Health (CTEH), and the State of Texas Civil Support Team will also be conducting air monitoring throughout the community.

**EPA Actions:** A Region 6 OSC and START personnel deployed to the scene.

ASPECT continued flights on March 20, 2019, with analysis showing detections of acetone and sulfur dioxide west of the facility and isobutylene and isoprene south of the facility. All concentrations were detected below 1 ppm. On March 21, 2019, the TAGA mobile laboratory began mobile monitoring in the areas and EPA continued air monitoring at 13 locations and will conduct water sampling. Once EPA contractors detected levels in a residential area south of Highway 225, ITC recommended the City of Deer Park issue a community shelter-in-place and close Highway 225.

EPA continues to participate in Unified Command with TCEQ, Harris County Pollution Control Services, and ITC. Region 6 OSC and Public Information Officer participated in a public meeting with Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee in Galena Park regarding EPA's role on the response.

**Media Interest:** High

<https://www.click2houston.com/news/fire-reported-inside-itc-deer-park-facility-day-after-exxon-plant-fire>

<https://abc13.com/shelter-in-place-issued-for-deer-park-after-fire-at-itc-plant/5200816/>

<https://www.khou.com/article/news/local/shelter-in-place-expanded-to-include-all-of-deer-park-tank-fire-remains-uncontrolled/285-30ca8f2d-f977-4b38-b2ca-a1f76f6140b5>

**The HQ EOC will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed**

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